

SHERROD BROWN
OHIO

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY

BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS

HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 30, 2010

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) considers applications for water and waste water projects, funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, I write in strong support of the Trumbull County Kinsman Township Sewer System application.

The project aims to serve more than 350 residential and commercial users. It is my understanding that the initiative will provide a centralized wastewater treatment and collection system for the unincorporated community. If awarded funding, this would be the first sewer project in Trumbull County funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Trumbull County has experienced significant job loss due to the challenges that face our nation's automotive and manufacturing sectors. The dire need for federal assistance cannot be over emphasized. In the last 10 years, the median household income in Kinsman Township has dropped from \$40,000 to \$30,000, largely due to the loss of the Kraft Foods facility. Due to high contamination levels, area businesses are under environmental orders and could be faced with layoffs and plant closures.

As a member of the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee in the United States Senate, I strongly support the use of Rural Development resources to help alleviate the burden of the area businesses and residents. Such resources have already proven to be pivotal for Ohio, as the state continues down the path to economic recovery.

I strongly urge the USDA to give serious consideration to the application for funding. Please don't hesitate to call on me if I can be of assistance in this matter.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator